Patient information factsheet

Information for contact lens wearers having lens surgery

Why do I need lens implant surgery?

You and your eye doctor have decided that you need an operation to put an artificial lens implant into your eye.

This may be because:
- The natural lens in your eye is being removed due to a cataract
- You may have had a cataract operation in the past and are now having an artificial lens put in or replaced
- The lens surgery may be part of an operation on the cornea (the front surface of the eye) or on the retina (the lining of the eye).

This leaflet gives you instructions about your contact lens wear before lens implant surgery.

How do contact lenses affect lens implant measurements?

Lens implants come in different strengths. We need to find out the best strength for you, to allow you to see as clearly as possible after the operation.

The lens implant strength is calculated by taking some measurements of your eye. This is called biometry and is usually done by experienced eye nurses during your pre-operative assessment appointment.

Contact lenses can affect the biometry readings, making the results less accurate. This could affect the power of the implant lens chosen and so reduce the level of vision after the operation.

What should I do about my contact lenses?

It is important you leave your soft or gas permeable contact lenses out of both eyes for 48 hours before the biometry measurement is taken at the pre-assessment appointment and again for 48 hours before your operation in case the measurements need to be checked again on the day of surgery.

Leaving the contact lens out before your operation also allows the cornea to recover from contact lens wear so that it is in the best possible condition before surgery.

If you wear special contact lenses for example those made of PMMA or scleral lenses, we may need to carry out different or additional measurements and you may need to leave your lenses out for longer.
If you think you fall into this group of patients please contact the eye unit admissions dept on:

023 8079 4197 / 023 8079 8733 / 023 8079 8734 for further advice.

Please do this before your pre-assessment visit in order to avoid any unnecessary cancellations.

If you are not sure what type of lenses you wear please ask the optometrist (optician) who prescribed them for you or the clinic doctor or nurse.